

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USMISSION
GENEVA 262203Z APR 7.

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TAGS: SHUM, SOCI

SUBJECT: 62D ECOSOC--DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM
AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ITEM 3

1. SUMMARY: DEBATE ON THE DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION HEATED UP ON APRIL 25 WITH STATE-
MENTS FROM POLAND, GREECE, AFGHANISTAN, SUDAN, JAPAN,
NIGERIA, ISRAEL, BULGARIA, MAURITANIA, PAKISTAN, UGANADA,
AND THE PLO. IN A DEPARTURE FROM THE RELATIVELY MILD
TONE OF EARLIER DECADE STATEMENTS THIS SESSION, ISRAELI
AMBASSADOR HERZOG DELIVERED A SHARP ATTACK ON IRAQ, AC-
CUSING THAT COUNTRY OF PRACTICING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST ITS KURDISH POPULATION AND CHARACTERIZING IT AS
A "BRUTAL RACIST REGIME WHICH HAS THE EFFRONTERY TO EVEN
APPEAR BEFORE AN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE."

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HERZOG ALSO CRITICIZED THE REPORT OF THE DECADE CONFERENCE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND THUS OPENED THE DOOR FOR A
THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT WHICH WEO DELEGATIONS
HAD HOPED TO AVOID. IRAQ MADE A BRIEF RIGHT OF REPLY
AND THE PLO OBSERVER SAID THAT HE HAD NOT PLANNED TO
SPEAK BUT FELT COMPELLED TO DO SO AFTER THE ISRAELI
STATEMENT. STATEMENTS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS DELIVERED

AFTER THE ISRAELI SPEECH WERE SOMEWHAT HARSHER (THE MAURITANIAN MADE THE FIRST MENTION THIS SESSION OF AN ALLEGED "PRETORIA-TEL AVIV AXIS") BUT THE LEVEL OF RHETORIC COMPARED TO PREVIOUS DEBATES OF THIS SUBJECT REMAINED LOW. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN OBVIOUS DEPARTURE FROM THE PREVIOUSLY MILD TONE OF DECADE DEBATE THIS SESSION, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HERZOG DELIVERED A SHARP ATTACK ON IRAQ, ACCUSING THAT COUNTRY OF PRACTICING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ITS KURDISH POPULATION AND CHARACTERIZING IT AS A "BRUTAL RACIST REGIME." ALTHOUGH HERZOG CLAIMED TO BE RESPONDING TO AN EARLIER IRAQI STATEMENT, THAT STATEMENT WAS, IN OUR VIEW, UNUSUALLY MILD AND THE ISRAELI COMMENTS WERE CONSIDERABLY MORE CONFRONTATIONAL THAN THOSE OF ANY OTHER DELEGATION. HERZOG ALSO CRITICIZED AT LENGTH THE DOCUMENTATION SECTION OF THE REPORT OF THE DECADE PREPCOM AND THUS OPENED THE DOOR FOR A BULGARIAN SUGGESTION THAT ECOSOC UNDERTAKE A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT-A DISCUSSION WHICH WEO DELEGATIONS HAD HOPED TO AVOID. (COPY OF ISRAELI STATEMENT BEING POUCHED IO/HR, HEWITT).

3. THE PLO OBSERVER PREFACED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING THAT HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO ADDRESS THE DECADE ITEM BUT FELT COMPELLED TO DO SO AFTER THE ISRAELI INTERVENTION. HE ACCUSED ISRAEL OF PURPOSELY ADDING CONTROVERSY TO THE "SMOOTH AND CONSTRUCTIVE" TONE OF DEBATE AND OF "RESORTING TO A DIATRIBE" TO ACHIEVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT END. THE PLO STATEMENT ITSELF WAS BRIEF AND RELATIVELY CONTRAINED AS WAS THE IRAQI RIGHT OF REPLY.

4. STATEMENTS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS DELIVERED BEFORE THE ISRAELI INTERVENTION GENERALLY AVOIDED THE ZIONISM ISSUE. THE NIGERIAN ADDRESS ACCUSED "CERTAIN UN MEMBERS" OF COLLABORATION WITH RACIST REGIMES AND CALLED FOR UN MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIMES. THE DELEGATE OF JAPAN URGED THAT THE CONFERENCE BE ORGANIZED SO "AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE" COULD PARTICIPATE.

5. STATEMENTS DELIVERED AFTER THE ISRAELI ADDRESS WERE SOMEWHAT HARSHER ALTHOUGH THE GENERAL TONE REMAINED Milder THAN IN PREVIOUS DEBATES OF THIS SUBJECT. THE MAURITANIAN DELEGATE MADE REFERENCE TO AN ALLEGED PRETORIA/SALISBURY/TEL AVIV AXIS AND THE UGANDANS LIKENED THE FATE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO THAT OF

BLACKS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BOTH URGED THAT THE PREPCOM
REPORT BE ACCEPTED IN ITS PRESENT FORM.

6. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW HERZOG'S INTERVENTION RE-
FLECTED GROWING ISRAELI FEARS THAT WESTERN SUPPORT
FOR ISRAEL'S DECADE POSITION IS ERODING. THE
STATEMENT WAS OBVIOUSLY CALCULATED TO INFLUENCE
THE TONE OF RESOLUTIONS NOW BEING FORMULATED ON THIS
ITEM AND MAKE IT AS DIFFICULT AS POSSIBLE FOR SUCH
RESOLUTIONS TO GARNER WESTERN SUPPORT.
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